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PLOMESGATE

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

REPORT

ON THE

Health and Sanitary State of the District

FOR THE YEAR ENDED

December 31st, 1925.

J. CORDY KEER, L.S.A., M.R.C.S.,
Medical Officer of Health,
WICKHAM MARKET.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE

RURAL DISTRICT OF PLOMESGATE.

GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition of the Rural District of Plomesgate for the year 1925.

Natural and Social Conditions.

Area	72,637 acres.
Population (1921 census)	14,900
(1925 estimated) ...	15,150

Physical features and general character of the area.

The district is, for the most part, flat with slight undulations. It is fairly well wooded, but of late years much of the timber has been cut down. The soil varies from heavy clay to light sand. There is a large acreage of marsh and heath land. Inland the subsoil is blue clay. The land is chiefly arable with a fairly large proportion of pasture. The district is interspersed with several small streams.

No. of inhabited houses (1921)	3905
No. of families or separate occupiers (1921)	3830
Rateable value	£73,364
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£306

Social Conditions.

The principal occupation is that of agriculture. There are no factories of any importance.

Vital Statistics :—

		M.	F.	TOTAL.
BIRTHS.	Legitimate	125	114	239
	Illegitimate	10	8	18

Birth Rate 16.3

Birth Rate for England and Wales 18.3

	M.	F.	TOTAL.
DEATHS.	103	92	195

Death Rate 12.8

Death Rate for England and Wales 12.2

Deaths in consequence of child birth ... Nil.

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age :—

Legitimate 14, Illegitimate 2, Total 16, which gives a Death Rate of 62.2 per 1,000 births.

Death Rate for England and Wales 75 per 1,000 births.

Amount of Poor Law Relief, £1670 : 14 : 11.

Suitable medical and surgical cases are sent to the Ipswich and East Suffolk Hospital, to which institution practically all the workers are weekly contributors.

Measles and Mumps were prevalent during a large part of the year.

General provision of Health Services.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council :—

(1) *Tuberculosis :* (a) Sanatorium at Ipswich.
(b) Normanston Hospital at Oulton Broad

(2) *Maternity :* Nil.

(3) *Children :* Nil.

(4) *Fever :* By arrangement cases are admitted to the Ipswich Borough Isolation Hospital.

(5) *Small Pox :* Any case of small pox occurring in the district would be accepted at the County Isolation Hospital at Ipswich.

Unmarried mothers, illegitimate infants and homeless children are cared for at the Plomesgate Infirmary.

Ambulances are provided by the Ipswich Isolation Hospital for infectious cases and the St. John's Ambulance at Ipswich for other cases.

Clinics and Treatment Centres: Nil.

Public Health Officers.

1. Medical Officer of Health (part time).

2. Sanitary Inspector (whole time).

Professional Nursing in the Home.

(a) **General.** There are district Nurses for groups of parishes who are paid partly by the parishioners and partly by grants from the County Council.

(b) **For Infectious Diseases.** Nil.

Midwives.

(a)	Employment of, or subsidy to, by the Local Authority	Nil.
(b)	Number practising in the area ...	8.

List of Acts or Orders in Force.

(a) Part iii of the Public Health Acts (Amendments) 1890, adopted January 1st, 1898.

(b) Dairies, Cowsheds and Workshops Order, 1885, adopted November 4th, 1907.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

During the year I examined 39 samples of water, 9 of which I found unfit for drinking purposes.

The water supply which is obtained from wells and in some cases from ponds is sufficient in quantity and the quality is generally good.

The rivers and streams are slightly polluted by drainage from some dwellings. This is checked wherever possible.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The only sewerage works are at Framlingham, the rest of the area is served by short drains leading to small catchpits which are periodically emptied on to the arable land

Closet Accommodation.

(a)	Water Closets	344
(b)	Privies	2840
(c)	Pail Closets	455

Privies are being converted to the pail system as frequently as possible.

Scavenging.

This is done by the occupiers and is made use of on the gardens and allotments.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

I have visited every parish and inspected any houses or premises where I have had reason to suspect a nuisance to exist. The Sanitary Inspector's report shows that he has inspected 760 houses and premises, and that defects and nuisances numbering 82 were noted. Many of these were remedied after he had spoken to the owners or occupiers without requiring a written notice, but 13 informal notices in writing were served and 7 statutory notices. Five of these latter related to structural defects in cottages, and have all been remedied by the owners.

Sanitary Condition of Schools.

The sanitary condition and water supply of the Schools in the district are satisfactory and no action beyond periodical inspection has been needed.

The scholars in elementary schools are inspected by the County School Medical Officers and Nurses.

Any case of suspected infectious disease is reported to me.

Housing.

(1) General Housing Conditions.

The majority of the houses are satisfactory and are brick with tiled roofs. There are, however, a number of plaster houses and some with thatched roofs. There is no shortage of houses.

(2) Overcrowding.

There are a few cases of overcrowding owing to the number of children in a family and the inability of the tenant to pay a higher rent for a bigger house. In some cases two cottages are let to one tenant.

(3) **Fitness of Houses.**

The defects in the houses are those due to general decay and when the owners are communicated with, they are put in order.

(4) **Unhealthy Areas.** Nil.

Housing Statistics for 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year.

(*a*)	Total	11
(*b*)	With State assistance:	
	(i) By the Local Authority ...	Nil.
	(ii) By other Bodies or Persons	1

(1) **Unfit Dwelling Houses.**

1.	Total number inspected	760
2.	Number inspected and recorded	7
3.	Number found unfit for human habitation ...	1
4.	Number not in all respects fit for habitation	6

(2) **Remedy of Defects without service of formal notices.**

Number of houses rendered fit 19

(3) **Action under Statutory Powers.**

A.	Under Section 3 of the Housing Act, 1925 ...	Nil.
B.	Under Public Health Acts:	
	(1) Number in respect of which notices were served	6
	(2) Number in respect of which defects were remedied:	
	(*a*) By Owners	6
	(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners	Nil.
	(*c*) Under Sections 11, 14 and 15 of the Housing Act, 1925	Nil.

Houses in the Plomesgate Rural District Council.

December 31st, 1925.

	Number Dec. 31st, 1917.	Repaired since 1917.	Built since 1917.	Number Dec. 31st, 1925.	
Benhall	149	3	2	151	
Blaxhall	123	12	—	123	
Brandeston	87	8	—	87	
Bruisyard	56	3	—	56	
Butley	78	10	—	78	
Campsey Ash	93	11	8	101	
Chillesford	56	3	—	56	
Cransford	45	4	—	45	
Cretingham	51	2	1	52	
Earl Soham	155	17	5	159	1 pulled down.
Easton	87	3	3	87	3 pulled down.
Eyke	93	7	—	92	1 past repair.
Farnham	45	3	1	46	
Framlingham	581	39	19	600	
Friston	121	2	13	134	
Gedgrave	12	—	—	12	
Glemham Great	72	7	—	72	
Glemham Little	66	9	—	66	
Hacheston	108	27	2	110	
Havergate	1	—	—	1	
Hazlewood	26	1	7	33	
Hoo	34	2	—	34	
Iken	72	5	1	71	2 pulled down.

	Number Dec. 31st, 1917.	Repaired since 1917.	Built since 1917.	Number Dec. 31st, 1925.	
Kenton	53	12	—	53	
Kettleburgh	69	19	—	69	
Letheringham	48	4	1	49	
Marlesford	108	16	1	106	1 pulled down. 2 past repair.
Monewden	37	7	—	37	
Orford	237	17	3	240	
Parham	92	5	—	92	
Rendham	75	9	3	78	
Rendlesham	73	4	1	74	
Snape	138	4	20	158	
Sternfield	51	4	—	51	
Stratford St. Andrew	46	6	1	47	
Sudbourne	113	8	1	110	1 pulled down, 2 burnt down.
Swefling	69	6	—	69	
Tunstall	153	8	3	156	
Wantisden	21	1	—	21	
Wickham Market	331	40	12	343	
	3925	348	108	4019	

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(*a*) Milk Supply.

The milk supplied is satisfactory in quality and quantity. The Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order is in force and all persons sending milk from their premises are registered.

No action has been needed with regard to tuberculous cattle.

Number of licenses granted ... ... Nil.

(*b*) Meat.

The Butchers' premises and shops numbering 25 are registered and 1 person is licensed to slaughter pigs. The meat is frequently inspected and none has been condemned. The shops are inspected frequently and also the vehicles used for conveyance. There are no public slaughter-houses.

Number of private slaughter-houses:

	In 1920.	In Jan. 1925.	In Dec. 1925.
Registered	Nil.	Nil.	25
Licensed	Nil.	Nil.	1
Total	Nil.	Nil.	26

(*c*) Other Foods.

The bakehouses and shops where food is stored or sold are kept in a satisfactory state.

Prevalence of and control over Infectious Diseases.

Since 1920 the number of Notifications of Infectious Disease received has been small. In 1924 there were a number of very mild Scarlet Fever cases in Eyke and Sudbourne.

Encephalitis Lethargica.

Two cases occurred in 1924 and one in 1925.

Pathological and Bacteriological specimens are examined at the County Laboratory.

Arrangements for Isolation.

Some cases are sent to the Isolation Hospital at Ipswich and others are isolated at home. In these latter cases disinfection is carried out by the Sanitary Inspector on the conclusion of the case.

I am unaware that the "Schick" and "Dick" tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever are made use of, or of the artificial methods of immunisation against these diseases.

Vaccination.

Number of persons vaccinated in 1925 under the Public Health (small pox preventory Regs.), 1917.

(*a*) Primary Vaccinations ... ... Nil.

(*b*) Re-Vaccinations ... ... Nil.

Notifiable Diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during 1925.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Deaths.
Small Pox	Nil.	—	—
Scarlet Fever	12	Nil.	Nil.
Diphtheria	4	Nil.	Nil.
Enteric Fever	1	Nil.	Nil.
Puerperal Fever	Nil.	—	—
Pneumonia	11	Nil.	3
Erysipelas	2	Nil.	Nil.
Encephalitis Lethargica ...	1	Nil.	1
Acute Polio-myelitis	1	Nil.	Nil.
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis ...	1	Nil.	Nil.

Tuberculosis. New Cases and Mortality during 1925.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.		F.		M.		F.	
0								
1		1	1			1		
5			2					
10			2					
15		1		1	1			
20	3				1	1		1
25	4	2	2		1			
35	4	2	2	2	1			
45	4	2			4	2		
55	1	2		2	1			1
65 and upwards	2				2			
Totals	18	10	9	5	11	4	—	2

There are no known Tuberculosis persons employed in the milk trade in the district. All persons notified as suffering from Tuberculosis are seen by the County Tuberculosis Officer and cases considered suitable are admitted to (1) East Suffolk Hospital (Surgical cases), (2) The Sanatorium at Ipswich, or (3) the Sanatorium at Oulton Broad, Lowestoft.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

There are no maternity or child welfare centres in the area.

No case of Puerperal Fever or Ophthalmia Neonatorum was notified during the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. CORDY KEER,

Medical Officer of Health,
Plomesgate Rural District.

WICKHAM MARKET,
May, 1926.

H. G. CRISP, PRINTER, SAXMUNDHAM & ALDEBURGH.